

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 211237Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2488

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: MARTIAL LAW COURT AGAIN SENTENCES PROFESSOR SOYSAL

REF ANKARA 7517, AND 1522 OF 1973

1. AFTER FOUR REVERSALS ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS BY THE MILITARY APPEALS COURT, A MARTIAL LAW COURT IN ANKARA HAS AGAIN SENTENCED PROFESSOR MUMTAZ SOYSAL TO SIX YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR SPREADING COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA THROUGH A CONSTITUTIONAL LAW TEXTBOOK HE WROTE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOYSAL NOW WILL HAVE TO RETURN TO JAIL (WHERE HE HAS ALREADY SPENT ABOUT A YEAR'S TIME) PENDING ANOTHER APPEAL.

2. THE RELENTLESS PROSECUTION OF THIS PROMINENT INTELLECTUAL IS IN CLEAR DISREGARD OF THE BY-NOW STRONG SENTIMENT TO GO EASY ON CONTROVERSIAL "THOUGHT CONTROL" CRIMES, AS WELL AS TO LEGISLATE A GENERAL AMNESTY PROMPTLY. THIS DECISION DEMONSTRATES A NEW THAT FULL USE

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IS BEING MADE OF THE LEGAL POWER TO CONTINUE MARTIAL LAW

TRIALS THAT WERE BEGUN BEFORE MARTIAL LAW ENDED LAST
SEPTEMBER. ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY APPEALS PROCESS HAS
TENDED TO CORRECT SOME OF THE ABUSES OR EXCESSES OF THE
LOWER MILITARY COURTS, THE LATTER'S DECISIONS CONCEIVABLY
COULD DRAW FRESH EUROPEAN CRITICISM OF TURKEY.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, PENAL SYSTEM, COURTS MARTIAL, TEXTBOOKS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA00488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740129/aaaabato.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ANKARA 7517, AND 1522 OF 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARTIAL LAW COURT AGAIN SENTENCES PROFESSOR SOYSAL
TAGS: PINT, TU, (SOYSAL, MUMTAZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005